



PRESS RELEASE

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**7 Idaho Students Among 108 Student Leaders Honored with
Pride Foundation Scholarship Awards Totaling \$438,000**

SEATTLE, WA— Today, Pride Foundation announced scholarships to 108 students from Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington States totaling \$438,000—the largest award in the organization’s history. Seven students from Idaho were awarded a total of \$25,500 in scholarships.

Pride Foundation is the largest source of scholarships to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) students in the country. These scholarships, which range from \$3,000 to \$14,000, seed the next generation of leaders in the LGBTQ community and support remarkable students who are engaged in a range of studies that will benefit the LGBTQ movement and the world.

Students supported include:

Cynthia DeVille will study industrial electronics technology at Lewis and Clark State in Lewiston, Idaho. Cynthia is the first openly transgender athlete in the Northwest Athletic Conference.

Jessica Darney graduated with a degree in Biology from the University of Idaho and is now studying at Spokane Falls Community College to become a prosthetics technician.

Anna McClain-Sims grew up in Boise and plans on majoring in biochemistry and eventually working to make critical medicines and therapies more affordable and accessible.

Isabel McGuigan, who lives in Moscow, ID, is pursuing an undergraduate dual-degree in conservation biology and wildlife resources at the University of Idaho.

“These scholarships provide vital support to students who have often had to overcome enormous hurdles, both cultural and financial,” said Pride Foundation CEO Kris A. Hermanns. “I look forward to seeing their impact on our community and our world and I am thrilled that Pride Foundation has the ability to provide substantial support to enable these students to achieve their dreams.”

Since its inception in 1993, Pride Foundation's scholarship program has awarded more than \$4.8 million to 1,292 individual scholars.

Recipients are leaders in the LGBTQ community and they either currently live or grew up in the Northwest. This year's scholars hail from every corner of the region—from North Pole, Alaska to Kalispell, Montana, and Sherwood, Oregon and include native peoples from the Blackfoot and Cherokee nations, students of Irish, Jamaican, and Korean ancestry, as well as Latino/a/x and African American students, and refugees from the Middle East who now call the Northwest home. Their ages range from 17 to nontraditional students in their 50s.

The scholarship has proved life-changing for students like Cynthia DeVille. "It is a matter of courage," said Cynthia. I have always wanted the credentials – to apply for jobs and show that I am successful. Just because I'm trans doesn't mean I can't be accomplished."

The press and members of the public can meet these inspiring Idaho students at a reception 6:30 pm on Thursday, June 8th, at Zion's Bank, 800 W Main St, 17th Floor in the Idaho Room. Register to attend [here](#).

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Founded in 1985, Pride Foundation is a regional community foundation serving Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington. Its mission is to inspire giving to expand opportunities and advance full equality for LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer) people in the Northwest. Learn more at www.pridefoundation.org.